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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000611

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: USDP FEITH'S FEB. 1 MEETING WITH TURKISH NSC

SECRETARY-GENERAL ALPOGAN

SIPDIS

Classified By: Ambassador Eric S. Edelman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) During their Feb. 1 meeting in Ankara, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Doug Feith and Turkish National Security Council Secretary-General Amb. Yigit Alpogan discussed the following issues:

2. (C) Iraq:

Alpogan analyzed the elections:

--"More or less successful."

--60% turnout hurts insurgents, as they are now fighting an elected government, not an invading force.

--Sunni Arab turnout 9%; Shias and Kurds will need to share power with Sunnis in ITG and drafting constitution.

--Iraqi Shias are Arabs and will not follow Iran; Sistani and his mentors opposed Khomeini. Iraqi Shias want their own chance to run Iraq.

--U.S. and Turkey share goal of united Iraq. If Kurds try to pull Kirkuk into Kurdistan, Iraq could disintegrate; thus we must work together on Kirkuk issue so that Kirkuk retains a "special status." Recent statements by Barzani and Talabani "are not helpful."

--USDP Feith responded that we shared Alpogan's strategic point that Iraq must remain unified.

3. (C) Afghanistan:

--USDP Feith expressed U.S. appreciation for Turkey's role in Afghanistan, including its taking over command of ISAF VII this month.

--USDP Feith cited Karzai's continuing success in consolidating his authority and defeating the warlords; both Feith and Alpogan agreed Dostum remained a problem.

--Alpogan said Turkey shared USDP Feith's optimism and would continue to work with us to bring stability to the country.

4. (C) NATO:

USDP Feith urged Turkey to work within NATO so that:

--Alliance's capabilities meet our commitments,

--Allies will not forbid officers in NATO billets from participating in NAC-approved ops,

--Allies place as few caveats as possible on troops in NATO ops.

Alpogan asked if the U.S. had any specific force generation request of Turkey in this regard; Feith responded that Turkey is not a problem, but may be part of a solution, especially in terms of providing a PRT (Alpogan did not respond to this).

5. (C) PSI:

Feith welcomed active Turkish participation in PSI, and encouraged Turkey to consider taking the lead on a PSI Black Sea exercise. He outlined the practical, non-institutionalized, decentralized nature of PSI. Alpogan said NSC has not studied the issue to date but would take it up. TU MFA rep reminded us that our refusal to support Turkey's Core Group membership had held back Turkish participation. Feith explained that PSI is an action-oriented initiative; the real action is in the Operational Experts Working Group.

6. (C) Common Security Assessment:

Feith asked Turkey to be one of our first allies to participate in a new Common Global Security Assessment initiative, in which U.S. friends and allies would come together with us bilaterally to analyze common global security problems to seek a common perspective. Alpogan responded that Turkey would be interested, but as the discussion would include the GWOT it would--from Turkey's perspective--also need to include PKK/Kongra-Gel since the group presents a serious threat to Turkey.

7. (U) USDP Feith cleared this cable.

18. (U) Iraq posts minimize considered.  
EDELMAN